

Message Text

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17

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 CU-02 AGR-05 DOTE-00

HEW-04 HUD-01 INT-05 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05

COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05

NSAE-00 USIA-06 OES-06 SS-15 SP-02 FEA-01 PA-01

PRS-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 /143 W

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R 131735Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4445

INFO/RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NY 729

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 1214

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV UN AG

SUBJECT: UN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT)

REF: (A) STATE 108167, (B) ALGIERS 1191, (C) ALGIERS 1190

1. EMBOFF WENT OVER GROUND COVERED IN STATE 108167 WITH MRS. SEMICHI OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS DIVISION MAY 13. MRS. SEMICHI WILL ATTEND VANCOUVER CONFERENCE AS FOREIGN MINISTRY 'S ACTION OFFICER ON HUMAN SETTLEMENT MATTERS.

2. MAJOR ISSUES FROM 7.S. VIEWPOINT:

A. RELEVANCE: MRS. SEMICHI NOTED THAT HABITAT COVERED WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS AND THAT POLITICAL ISSUES OFTEN DIRECTLY LINKED TO MORE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT. SHE CITED PROBLEM OF SAHARA REFUGEES LIVING ON ALGERIAN TERRITORY IN THIS CONNECTION. HAVING SAID THIS, HOWEVER, SHE EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH EMBOFF'S
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OBSERVATION THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BECOME SIDETRACKED

FROM ITS MAIN PURPOSES.

B. DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES:

PARA II.6 OF HER COPY OF DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WAS
ASTERISKED IN PENCIL, MRS. SEMICHI SAID THAT NEITHER SHE, NOR
AS FAR AS SHE KNEW ANY ONE ELSE IN GOA, HAD FOCUSED ON
NATIONAL VS. INTERNATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY QUESTION. USING
STATE 108167, EMBOFF PROVIDED HER WITH EXACT STATEMENT OF
HOW U.S. BELIEVES PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE PHRASED.

C. FUTURE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE: MRS. SEMICHI

AGREED GENERALLY THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO CONSOLIDATE
EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS CENTER FOR HOUSING,
BUILDING AND PLANNING ON ONE HAND AND UN HABITAT AND HUMAN
SETTLEMENT FOUNDATION ON OTHER, RATHER THAN TO CREATE NEW
ORGANIZATION. NEW ORGANIZATION WOULD BE USELESS DUPLICATION
IN HER VIEW. SHE EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH IDEA THAT
INSTITUTIONAL HOME SHOULD BE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF UN RATHER THAN UN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM. SHE
TOOK NOTE BOTH OF U.S. VIEW THAT COMMITTEE ON HOUSING,
BUILDING AND PLANNING SHOULD BE REPLACED BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL
BODY AND ALSO OF U.S. OPINION THAT SECRETARIAT AND MEETING
PLACE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY SHOULD BE LOCATED IN NEW YORK.

3. MRS. SEMICHI AGREED WITH EMBOFF'S OBSERVATION THAT
SECRETARIAT'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SETTLEMENT PROGRAMS HAD BEEN
TOO DIFFUSE. SHE MADE POINT OF SAYING, HOWEVER, THAT GOA
WAS NOT PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CONFERENCE'S CHANCES OF SUCCESS.

4. COMMENT: MRS. SEMICHI EMPHASIZED THAT SHE WAS NOT SPEAKING
AUTHORITATIVELY, AS GOA HAD NOT YET FORMULATED POSITION
ON POINTS EMBOFF RAISED. THUS, DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOT
ATTACH TOO MUCH WEIGHT TO FOREGOING GENERALLY, AND
PARTICULARLY TO THE VIEW THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE
DISTRACTED BY EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL QUESTIONS. SHOULD GOA
FIND IT USEFUL TO DO SO, IT WOULD NOT HESITATE TO RAISE,
OR TO SUPPORT OTHERS IN RAISING, POLITICAL QUESTIONS
UNRELATED TO BUSINESS OF CONFERENCE. PARKER

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